

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Education Committee



In support of SB 1095: AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

February 25, 2023

Dear Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the housing committee:

My name is Brittany LaMarr and I am a resident of Cromwell, Connecticut. I am also a Justice Advisor with the Connecticut Justice Alliance. I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

I believe in our young people, and their ability to co-create safe futures when given the proper fundamental support for growth and well-being. Violence is a systemic issue stemming from a decades-long history of repression, marginalization, removal of financial and educational resources, and other forms of undermining communities of color, poor communities, immigrant communities, and Black communities. Violence is a result of a lack of mental health care, affordable housing, guaranteed basic income, proper child care, opportunities for young people, safe recreational spaces, and so much more.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration. I would also like to encourage you all to support the recommendations outlined in S.B. 119 in order to make this bill even stronger.

Thank you for your time,

Brittany LaMarr